



CONIFA

Confederation of Independent Football Association
www.conifa.org

Dear honourable CONIFA member, partner and/or stakeholder/s!

It is with huge pleasure and satisfaction I send this newsletter to you. The CONIFA Global Executive Committee together with Continental Committees and the fantastic Media team have accomplished amazing results the last 3-4 months that secure a very clear and bright future for you as a member and for the organisation itself. This has all been achieved during a time of a serious Global Pandemic and sincerely hope you and your families are well.

Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about all the positive action that has taken place within CONIFA. I also would like to take the opportunity to thank all former Executive Committee members for their previous contributions and recognise the top professional people who contribute to our organisation – all for your benefit.

I hope you all will enjoy reading this and if you have any additional questions, please feel to contact our General Secretary, Jason Heaton at jason.heaton@conifa.org or any other CONIFA Executive Committee member.

You find the contact details to all wonderful people from all over the world, who work voluntarily every day for you at: <http://www.conifa.org/en/about-us/board/>

Friendship for life

Per-Anders Blind
CONIFA Global President

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CONIFA, WORKING IN HARMONY

READY TODAY

FOR A STRONGER FUTURE



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THE LOGOTYPE



The work behind the new logotype was a massive contribution from the whole Executive Committee. After launching a request of proposals from art directors and designers from all over the world, the CONIFA ExCo received an enormous response with several world class proposals. In the end, the proposal made by Andreas Trenker won the very tight race, by presenting a very unique font and symbol that keep the CONIFA values and mission – a global family, building bridges between people from all over the world.



NEW CONIFA LOGO

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new logo. A design inspired by Andreas Trenker, who was the winner of our global competition to create our new logo.

The new logo will come into effect today across all official CONIFA media channels and will replace the old logo designed by Noah Wheelock.

Speaking about the logo design and his passion for CONIFA, Andreas commented,

"CONIFA is way more than just a football association. It is also a tool for people to make their voices heard through sports. For me, it was important to transmit the values of CONIFA in the logo. "The faces in the form of hexagons were inspired by the iconic Adidas Telstar football of the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, a great piece of design which became the stereotype of when we think about a football".

Stay tuned to CONIFA social media channels through the coming days as we bring you further insight into the logo design and an exclusive interview with designer Andreas Trenker.



OUR NEW GENERAL SECRETARY



Finding a new General Secretary isn't an easy task. It has to be a very competent, communicative and representative person that carries the vision, mission and values of CONIFA on his/her shoulders. **It couldn't be better.** CONIFA had the honour to appoint Jason Heaton as new General Secretary in April and I'm 110% convinced that everyone that has had the opportunity to talk with or meet Jason can guarantee that he definitely contributes to a better and stronger CONIFA with his passion, know how and whole-hearted dedication.



NEW GENERAL SECRETARY

As of 19th April 2020 there has been a new General Secretary in CONIFA, interim until the AGM in January 2021.

Jason Heaton was unanimously voted in by the CONIFA Global Executive Committee. Heaton, formally Global Business Director, Executive Committee member and also co-founder & Chairman of Kernow FA has considerable experience. He has previously worked within CONIFA having been a main organiser for the WFC London 2018 and assisted with the setting up of 'No Limits', CONIFAs international tournament for disabled players and developing global business initiatives. He said in his opening statement:



"It is an incredible privilege to hold this position, CONIFA means so much to so many people around the world, so it is with great honour that I will uphold the strong moral and ethical standards set by the organisation. Any growth principles will be set on the notion of quality over quantity, co-operation and clear channels of communication.

CONIFA is a family made up of pro-active, hardworking and diligent people from all over the world and we are all responsible for maintaining that ethos and level of understanding for future generations; something I'm very much looking forward to as General Secretary.



NEW MEDIA DIRECTOR

In mid-May our brilliant Creative Director Brad Merrett had to step down from his role due to an increased workload in his professional life and there was no time left for voluntary work. Matt Hudson jumped onboard in a brilliant way to temporarily cover the Media Director role until we found someone who could replace this important role in the high standards that are expected. "Lady Fortune" watched over us and CONIFA had the honour to be introduced to the brilliant individual, James Cronin who became appointed as new Media Director in June.



CONIFA



CONIFA is pleased to welcome James Cronin on board as the new Media Manager.

James is a freelance sports producer and founder of Hidden Football (www.hiddenfootball.co.uk), an ongoing project exploring the sport's global reach through articles, photos and film. He is also a contributor to BBC Sport and Copa90, sharing inspiring stories from the world of football. James has spent the last 9 months completing the FIFA Master programme, studying with 31 sport professionals from 28 different countries, and brings this network and experience to the CONIFA Media team.

James said: "It's a real honour to be involved with CONIFA. It's an inspiring organisation that brings people together through football, and I'm excited to get to know our growing number of member associations from around the world."

"We have an amazing opportunity to tell the inspiring stories of their cultures and identities (both on and off the field), and to use football as a force for education and change. I'm looking forward to contributing towards the growth of the CONIFA family, and to work with the members and our global team to share their stories with the world."

Welcome, James!

NEW PRESIDENT of ASIA



I personally had the pleasure and honour to meet Motoko for the very first time back in 2014 when she visited the 1st ever CONIFA World Football Cup in Östersund, Sweden. Since that day, Motoko has been a fantastic ambassador for CONIFA, especially in Japan, but also in the whole Asian Continent.

Now, Motoko and I are staged to form her Asian Continental Committee and also plan for the first ever CONIFA Asia Championship.



CONIFA

 Sportsbet.io



After years of continual commitment to football and in particular the United Koreans of Japan, We are extremely proud to welcome our New CONIFA President for Asia Motoko Jitsukawa.

Motoko was instrumental in UKJ joining CONIFA in 2015, making their World Football Cup debut in 2016 in Abkhazia and qualifying for London 2018, narrowly missing out on a quarter-final place.

Looking forward, Motoko has already appointed a manager for East Asia in Tomoki Okuyama and has made preliminary plans for the first Asia tournament.

With a proven track record and her sights fixed firmly on the future, CONIFA in Asia is certainly in great hands.

Welcome, Motoko!



NEW GENERAL MANAGER

A big welcome to Dr Fabio Puntillo – a very highly skilled gentleman based in Rome, Italy. The main objective for Fabio is to support both CONIFA as an organisation and its member's to expand global presence and business. Fabio comes into CONIFA with more the 25 years of experience in international business development, media convergences, sponsorship and event management.



CONIFA

Dr. Fabio Puntillo has been confirmed as the new General Manager for CONIFA as the organisation continue to plan for the future.

The CONIFA ExCo is committed to supporting the growth of the whole organisation. With the CONIFA events growing ever bigger, and the increasing number of members, this require more efficient and effective strategies and actions.

Fabio's appointment in April as General Manager, global business, of CONIFA, continues his journey with the organisation.

He joined CONIFA in 2018 as Chief Marketing Officer, bringing 25 years of experience in international business development, media convergence, sponsorship and event management.

Fabio has been a lecturer in international business management at the University of Rome, worked in North America, Asia, the Middle East and Europe, holds an MBA from the University of Southern California and a DBA from the University of Rome.

We wish him well with his new role!



NEW PRESIDENT of SOUTH AMERICA



CONIFA are very proud to introduce our President of South America, Diego Bartolotta Camarillo. In a very short period of time, Diego has formed a Continental Committee with highly skilled professionals, attracted new members and has also been a key player in new partnerships in Mexico. What Diego achieved within just a couple of months will be a huge springboard for success in South America.



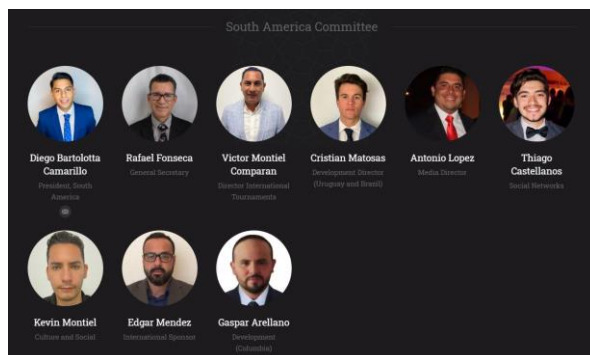
CONIFA

CONIFA is pleased to welcome Diego Bartolotta Camarillo on board as the new President for our South America region.

Upon taking the position, Diego told us: "I am a former professional soccer player, and an intermediary in sports management and international business. I speak 3 languages, English, Italian and Spanish.

"My passion for soccer has allowed me to travel the world in search of improving the future of young people. "I live for soccer and, as CONIFA's President for South America, it will allow me to carry out sporting activities in the American continent, and to provide young people across our members the opportunity for development."

Welcome, Diego!





NEW in the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CONIFA are very happy to introduce our latest member of the CONIFA Global Executive Committee, Mr Robin Toal. Robin will work on the main objective to develop and expand Africa as a Continent within CONIFA. A short summary of Robin as a person:

An experienced business development, communications and fundraising professional with a determination to create positive social change. A strategic and creative thinker with a strong track record of delivering excellent results for a variety of organisations in several diverse roles across fundraising and communications. Adept at identifying problems and delivering creative solutions within budget whilst more than happy to get involved in the grit and grind.



KEY STRENGTHS

- Excellent project manager with experience delivering a range of outcomes
- Creative vision to identify problems and deliver innovative solutions
- Experience managing large and complex budgets
- Demonstrated ability to significantly grow and diversify income streams
- Considerable experience of managing communications functions
- History of delivering positive change and development

Robin has excellent experience of working in Africa and Asia to create and deliver high level results and values for all stakeholders.

NEW MEMBERS



	<p>Regno delle due Sicilie, “the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies”.</p> <p>The national football team of the Two Sicilies is the football team of the Two Sicilies, which are a territory formed by the Island of Sicily and Hither Sicily (or Napolitania, which is the Southern part of the Italian peninsula). There ´re approximately 6 million people living in this southern part of Italy.</p>
	<p>Asociacion de Futbol Kuskatan</p> <p>Kuskatan is in El Salvador in an area where historically the natives called PIPIL resided. At the moment its an indigenous group of EL Salvador alongside Lenca in which they are mainly from the East side. PIPIL has a tragic history with the government in early 1900s and its native language, culture, and religion was almost wiped out completely. In any case, recent organization have been working on bringing back the language and culture alive. They have been doing a wonderful job and it has not garnered many tourist attractions and tours involving the history and culture of El Salvador.</p>
	<p>Asociación Nacional de Balompié Mexicano</p> <p>The Asociacion Nacional Del Balompie Mexicano is the national team of the people of Mexico. The ANBM will be comprised of and will represent native and indigenous peoples of Mexico.</p> <p>The entities represented by the Football Association are minorities included in the World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>The entities represented by the Football Association are linguistic minorities, the languages of which are included on the ISO 639.2 list.</p>

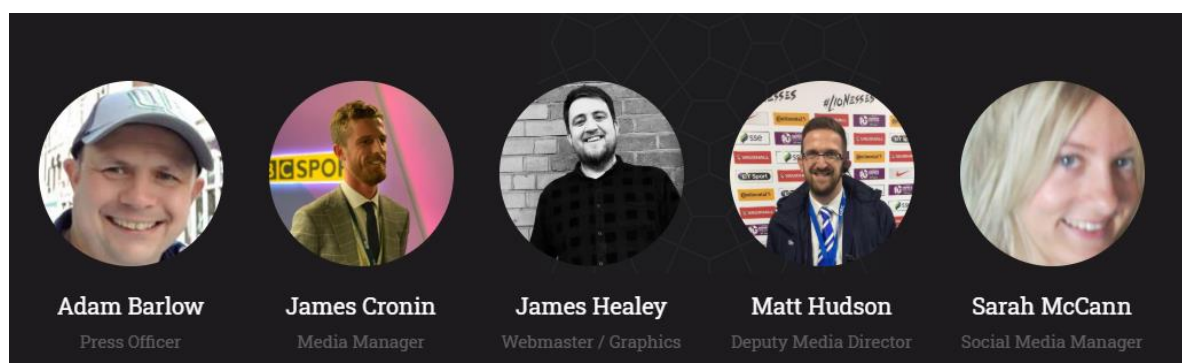


THE MEDIA TEAM

With "drop offs" of our former Media Director, Creative Director and some of the people in the previous media team, CONIFA had a huge challenge to solve. For a Global organisation as CONIFA, a professional dedicated media team is crucial for success. We can be the best in the world, but if no one knows about it, it's worth zero and nothing.

Therefore I'm so happy and proud to introduce our DREAMTEAM behind all wonderful social media posts, articles and local, national and international attention that both CONIFA and you as a member can experience today.

THE GLOBAL MEDIA TEAM



In addition to this, all Continental Committees having (or are in a process of recruiting) their own Continental media director / team, to support the Global team for maximum coverage and attention.

CONIFA WFC 2020



As you all are aware of, CONIFA was forced to cancel the CONIFA World Football Cup 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation. We scheduled a meetings with all involved teams in March 2020 to discuss the situation in north Macedonia before any decision was taken, but as the virus evolved to a global pandemic situation, we had no choice other than to cancel.



 **Sportsbet.io**
**WORLD
FOOTBALL
CUP 2020**
North Macedonia

In December 2019, CONIFA was informed by a former ExCo member that we had to pay 100% of the hotel booking in advance with a motivation that this was such a large booking in their high season, so to secure the booking – they demanded full payment in advance. The ExCo felt that we had no choice than to pay the booking.

When the decision was taken to cancel the tournament, we immediately contacted the hotel and cancelled our reservations. With the conditions stated, the hotel are obligated to pay back the money in total. We are still in a situation were the hotel is stalling the process and refuses to pay back any monies. We have therefore been forced to contract a lawyer in Macedonia who started a legal process to recover the debt.

In our dialogue with Sportsbet.io, they have been very understanding about our cancellation and agreed that we can use their sponsorship money for upcoming tournaments in 2021 instead of the WFC2020 in Macedonia. This money is still are "locked " in Macedonia. For CONIFA (you) it is of huge importance that we get the hotel to repay the money, so it can be used for tournaments next year ... so its a "Top Prioritized" task for the ExCo and other stakeholders at the moment.

As you hopefully understand, this creates a very unsure planning situation for CONIFA at the moment, but still ... we ´re planning for the largest event calendar in CONIFAs history ... with no guarantees given due to the facts above ... your can read more in the following pages.

EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP



The CONIFA European Club Championship is an idea that came from the associated members in Europe, addressed to the members of the CONIFA European Continental Committee.

The President of Europe, Alberto Rischio, forwarded the idea to the CONIFA Global Executive Committee who liked the initiative and gave approval to investigate this route further.

The initiative was born by the situation that we have a couple of members that run their own leagues inside their country/region. At the end of the league season, there will be a league champion and to promote, motivate and educate the clubs even more, they've shown an interest to "Go International" in a CONIFA "Champions League" system, with Europe as a start.

See example below:



This whole idea is still in a very early pre-planning / idea phase and is delegated to the European Committee to come forward with. CONIFA see this as a very interesting project, especially as it is initiated by requests from our members which are in line with our core values. The organisation is here to serve the interest for its members !

As soon as the European Committee comes closer to a final decision for such a tournament, we will inform you.



CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

The Executive Committee have discussed the qualification system for the "Big One", the CONIFA World Football Cup in a very detailed manner and also listened to your frustrations about the existing system. Our proposal is to launch Continental tournaments / Championships in all continents and use these as qualifiers for the WFC. Here, I want to address that this is only a proposal and has to be approved at the next Annual General meeting.

We (the ExCo) also want to take this opportunity to inform you about the current status of upcoming Continental tournaments.

AFRICA

To be able to launch a Continental tournament, there has to be a Continental Committee in place, led by an Continental President. So far, the Annual General Meeting hasn't been able to find a candidate interested to lead Africa which makes it very difficult to launch tournaments or other activities in this continent. Even so, the ExCo is working very hard to explore the opportunities and are also very happy to be able to welcome, Robin Toal, as field expert into the ExCo. Our very clear ambition is to elect a President of Africa (with Continental Committee members) at the latest at the next AGM, so they can take over the work done by the Executive Committee so far and launch a Continental tournament.

ASIA

With a new Continental President onboard (Motoko Jiksukawa) and new members in the Asian Committee, Motoko has high hopes to launch the very first CONIFA Asia Championship in Tokyo next year.

EUROPE

Thanks to a very active President and Continental Committee, Europe can present two locations that have applied to host the EFC2021 in June and more can come. What is already determined is that the next CONIFA No Limit tournament will take place in Sabbioneta, Italy March/April 2021.

NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN / SOUTH AMERICA

North America is ready for its first ever tournament. The details are still undefined, since the NAC want to await the location/date for the next CONIFA WFC. What has been discussed is an Intercontinental format with North and South America, together.

OCEANIA

Our President in Oceania, Ben Schultz, works together with our members in the Continent to explore the possibilities for an island tournament as a Continental tournament.

CONIFA WOMEN WORLD FOOTBALL CUP 2021



CONIFA reached a historical milestone, when we in November 2018 were able to launch the first ever Women football game in our history, between North Cyprus and FA Sapmi. The game was hosted by KTFF (Orcun Kamali), who organized everything together with Håkan Kuorak (FA Sapmi). The Women´s Friendship Cup.



Now we´re heading towards a thrilling future and the planning for a CONIFA Women World Football Cup are in progress. The location is ... so stay tuned for updates !!!



Welcome to Romania in 2021!

CONIFA WORLD FOOTBALL CUP 2022/23?



Working in the shadow of COVID 19, its difficult to predict the exact date or even year for the next World Championship for teams outside FIFA, the CONIFA World Football Cup. Even so, we are delighted and very proud to inform you that we already have two locations who more or less are ready to host the tournament, so it will happen... the question at the moment is just when?

Its also a possibility for us that one location host the next one (example: 2022) and the other location host in 2024/25)... so be proud ... there are more and more locations that want your presence and want to celebrate your beautiful people, history and tradition.

We have to wait for the world to be able to open up and the travel restrictions to be gone before we can turn all our plans into actions, so at the moment, no one can give any guarantees at all ... but we can assure you – we are ready!



Photo credit: Beslan Lagullan

CONIFA AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021



CONIFA are very proud to welcome all our members to the UNESCO World Heritage site, Sabbioneta Italy which will take place between 29th – 31st January 2021 in the ancient theatre "Teatro all'antico".



This Annual General Meeting will be one of the most important meetings in CONIFA's history and will include strategy days for the development of Women football, Football for disabled people, continental development meetings, official draw ceremonies for tournaments and we will also launch a big surprise for world media and you at the end of the 3 day programme.

We will send out an official invitation with additional information about the programme, how to get there, hotels etc at the end of September.

The organisation is very professional and Alberto Rischio together with the AGM Committee works close together with the municipality of Sabbioneta to maximize your stay during the weekend, which will also include a VIP tour, called "Discover Sabbioneta" on Sunday 31st January for free.

We sincerely hope that you are able to attend, and if not, we will try to make it possible to attend online. This shouldn't be missed.



CONIFA No Limit Championship 2021



One of our mottos: 'So everyone can play' is especially suitable when it comes to the CONIFA No Limit Championship. This tournament definitely breaks barriers and shows that there are No Limits...

CONIFA was set to host its first ever tournament for disabled football teams when the CONIFA No Limits European Championship took centre stage in the principality of Monaco, 11th-13th January 2019. The Stade des Moneghetti were the designated stadium for the tournament.



Now, CONIFA is very proud to announce the location for the next No Limit tournament. Sabbioneta, Italy will host the 2nd edition of the tournament in March/April 2021. This will again show the world that everyone can play, enjoy, create friendship and become Champion, no matter what obstacles lie in front of you. To see the joy in the eyes of a No Limit player is a magical moment and this is genuine sport at its best.





PARTNERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIPS

CONIFA are happy to announce that all existing partners and sponsors will continue a joint journey with us.

Head line sponsor

Sportsbet.io will prolong the existing agreement to December 2021 even though we had to cancel the WFC2020 in Macedonia which is something that we are very thankful for. This means that Sportsbet.io will be Headline sponsor in all CONIFA activities for the next year.



Sportsbet.io

<https://sportsbet.io/>

Streaming platform partner

We are very happy to inform that Mycujoo will continue to operate as the official CONIFA streaming platform provider for all our tournaments and events.



CONIFA NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN










The North America & Caribbean Committee

After just a couple of weeks from the day of his appointment, as our new President of North America and the Caribbean, President Aaron Johnsen could present a very professional, high skilled and passionated Continental Committee.



North America and Caribbean Continental Committee

 Aaron Johnsen President, North America and Caribbean (USA)	 Artis Curiskis Marketing & Commercial Director	 David Marino-Nachison General Secretary	 Daz Knapton European Liaison	 Joshua Duder Women's Football Director	 Justin Grimm Tournaments Director
 Yannick St. Germain Membership Director					

The work from Aaron and his Committee members have already sent "shock waves" around the globe. New members, partnerships and planning for a Continental tournament in combination with high level marketing has given North America attention far outside its area of operation. The future for the Continent looks really bright and it also shows as a role model of how important it is to have a dedicated Continental President (a true leader) and the importance of genuine, passionated, unselfish skilled good hearted people to surround you with, building a DreamTeam.

LMB

Liga de Balompié Mexicano



For the first time ever, CONIFA has given sanction to a professional league. This milestone was reached in Mexico and with "Liga Mexicano Balompié" – LMB, thanks to a fantastic team work between Diego, Aaron and others in the Executive Committee.

From Wikipedia

The Liga de Balompié Mexicano (Mexican Football League) was presented on January 29, 2020 with aim of providing another development opportunity soccer players who

did not get a place in one of the teams in the main Mexican football leagues,, in addition to bringing professional football to locations that have not had sufficient presence of sports institutions or do not have adequate facilities to participate in Liga MX or Ascenso MX.

On February 22, 2020 the first league team assembly was held. On July 8, 2020 it was announced that the LBM would be the first league sanctioned by CONIFA



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to

Find out more about LBM on there official homepage: <https://balompiemexicano.com/>

or on Wikipedia at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liga_de_Balompi%C3%A9_Mexicano

If you have additional questions about LBM and/or the sanction agreement, feel free to contact Diego Bartolotta Camarillo or Aaron Johnsen at any time.



Francesco Zema Global No Limit Director

CONIFA are very proud and honoured to present our latest interim member of the Executive Committee.

Mr Francesco Zema (Milan, Italy) is appointed as the Global Director for No Limit football in CONIFA.

Francesco is a non-profit specialist working with vulnerable communities, young at risk and disabled people. He is a family man and an avid traveller. His greatest strength is his intellectual curiosity. He loves the way the world, the people and different cultures can shape you. Football for him, is a true love and a consistent part of his life.



Francesco is very passionate and dedicated in his mission to develop football for disabled people in CONIFA, and a wish from all Executive Committee members, is that you as important members of CONIFA, support Francesco in the best way possible to accomplish the mission. In a very short period of time, Francesco created a No Limit guideline which shortly will be distributed to all of you. Here you can find rules for the game, guidelines for tournaments and also an excellent description of different disabilities and how they are classified.



SUMMARY



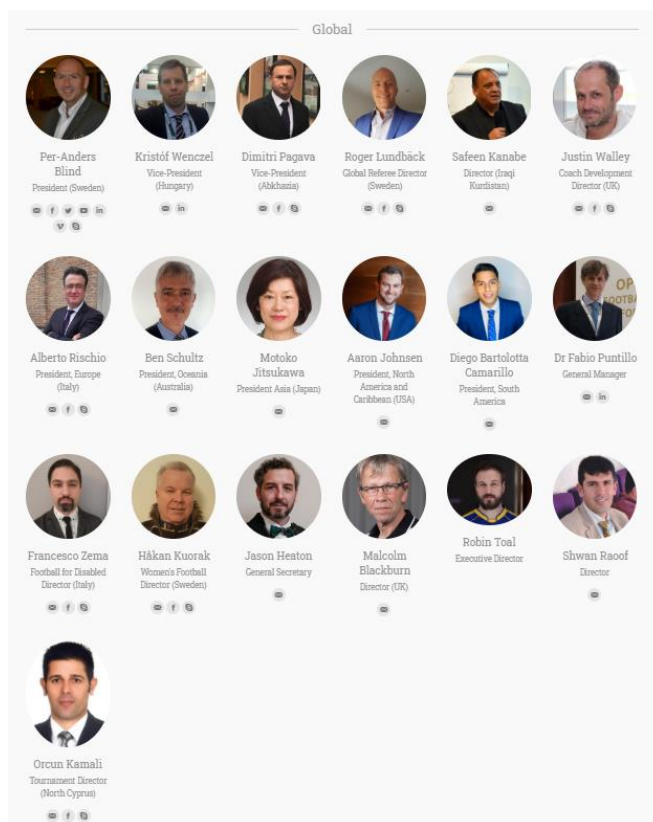
Dear CONIFA member and/or stakeholder!

As President, I´m honoured and blessed to be given this opportunity to at least give you a small insight of what´s going on inside CONIFA at the moment – and what this fantastic team have accomplished within just a couple of months in a period, when we live in the shadow of COVID 19 and the "drop off" of several ExCo members.

CONIFAs existence is based on the purpose to serve its members in the best way possible and promote and celebrate your people and regions/countries through the beautiful game of football (soccer) and culture. The Global Executive Committee is never far away than an email, so feel free to contact anyone of us, whenever you want – and we will be there as soon as possible.

FRIENDSHIP FOR LIFE

// Per-Anders Blind, CONIFA Global President



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